



14 August, 2003

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the U.S. Delegation to the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS), I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the agenda for the upcoming 12th Session of the Committee to be held in Brisbane, Australia, December 1-5, 2003. As you can note, there will be a number of key items coming before the Committee including continuing discussions on traceability and on the exchange of information in food control emergency situations. There will also be an important discussion on possible future work of the Committee.

If you have an interest in serving as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the 12th Session of CCFICS, please notify Carole Williams in writing by October 15, 2003. She can be reached via email at Carole.Williams@cfsan.fda.gov or by FAX at (301) 436-2618.

This is also to advise you that two public meetings have been scheduled to discuss the agenda items coming before the 12th Session. The first, to review the technical content of the agenda items and receive comments on all issues coming before the 12th Session, will be held on

Wednesday, October 22, 2003, 1-4 p.m. in room 1A001 of the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Office Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Maryland.

The second, to review draft U.S. positions for the 12th Session agenda items, will be held

Wednesday, November 12, 2003, 1-3 p.m., also in room 1A001 of the Wiley Building.

Participation by phone will be possible for both meetings.

We look forward to your participation in the planning for the upcoming 12th Session of CCFICS.

Thank you for your continuing interest in CCFICS.

Sincerely,

<signed: Catherine W. Carnevale>

Catherine W. Carnevale, V.M.D.
U.S. Delegate to CCFICS

cc: Karen Stuck, Alternate Delegate
Michael Wehr

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twelfth Session
Brisbane, Australia, 1 – 5 December 2003

To be held at the Hilton Brisbane, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia,
from Monday, 1 December at 10:00 to Friday 5 December 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item	Subject Matter	Document Identification
1.	Adoption of the Agenda	CX/FICS 03/1
2.	Matters Referred from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other Codex Committees	CX/FICS 03/2
3.	Proposed Draft Revision to the Codex Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations - Comments at Step 3	CX/FICS 03/3 CX/FICS 03/3-Add. 1
4.	Discussion Paper on Traceability/Product Tracing in the Context of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems - Comments	CX/FICS 03/4 CX/FICS 03/4-Add.1
5.	Discussion Paper on the Judgement of Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems - Comments	CX/FICS 03/5 CX/FICS 03/5-Add. 1
6.	Other Business and Future Work	
7.	Date and Place of Next Session	
8.	Adoption of the Report	

Notes on the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda (CX/FICS 03/1): The Committee will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda for the Session.

Agenda Item 2 – Matters Referred from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other Codex Committees (CX/FICS 03/2): The document is an information paper prepared by the Codex Secretariat concerning matters referred and/or of interest from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees.

Agenda Item 3 – Proposed Draft Revision to the Codex Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations (CX/FICS 03/3): The 11th CCFICS returned the proposed draft Revision to the Codex Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations to Step 2 for revision by the drafting group led by Australia (ALINORM 03/30A, para. 39). Comments submitted at Step 3 in response to CX/FICS 03/3 are presented in document CX/FICS 03/3-Add. 1.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion Paper on Traceability/Product Tracing in the Context of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CX/FICS 03/4): The 11th CCFICS decided to reconvene the Working Group on Traceability led by Switzerland to determine the current adequacy and applicability of CCFICS texts related to traceability / product tracing and to complete the mandate assigned by the 10th CCFICS. The Working Group should prepare a discussion paper with a complete analysis of the issues involved for circulation, additional comments and further consideration at its next Session (ALINORM 03/30A, paras. 52-53). Comments submitted in response to CX/FICS 03/4 are presented in document CX/FICS 03/4-Add. 1.

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion Paper on the Judgement of Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems (CX/FICS 03/5): The 11th CCFICS decided that a drafting group led by Australia would revise the Discussion Paper on the Judgement of Equivalence of Technical Regulations Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems for circulation, comment and further consideration at its next meeting (ALINORM 03/30A, para. 45). Comments submitted in response to CX/FICS 03/5 are presented in document CX/FICS 03/5-Add 1.

Agenda Item 6 – Other Business and Future Work: Other business and proposals for future work will be considered.

Agenda Item 7 – Date and Place of Next Session: The Chairperson will propose the tentative date and place of the next meeting, subject to discussions by the Codex and Australian Secretariats.

Agenda Item 8 – Adoption of the Report: the Committee shall adopt a report of its 12th Session based on a draft provided by the Secretariat.